



MEETING MINUTES
Local Roads & Streets Council
January 9, 2002
Wisconsin Rapids City Council Chambers
10:00 am to 4 pm

LRSC MEMBERS PRESENT

Wisconsin Counties Association

Phil Boehning—Clark County
Dick Leffler—Florence County
Emmer Shields—Ashland County
Tom Boguszewski—Rock County

Wisconsin Towns Association

Norm Faber – Ithaca
Eugene Lueck – WTA
LaVerne Grunwald—Caledonia

League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Gary Boden—Whitewater
Dave Waffle-Reedsburg
Bill Handlos—Manitowoc
Dennis Melvin-West Bend

Wisconsin Alliance of Cities

Richard Jones—Racine
Chris Fornal (for Jeff Polenske) –Mil.
Bud Verjinsky—Wisconsin Rapids

Regional Planning Commissions/

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Walt Raith—Fox Cities and Oshkosh

WisDOT STAFF PRESENT

Scott Bush
Mary Forlenza
Brian Zirbes
Robert Wagner – District 4
Jon Novick

Others Present

Phil Scherer-TDA

LRSC MEMBERS ABSENT

Carl Weber—Green Bay (Excused)
Mildred Beier—Beaver Dam (Excused)
Don Kush—Eau Claire (Excused)
Ken Yunker—RPC/MPO (Excused)

Opening Business (Rick Jones, Mary Forlenza)

Rick Jones called the meeting to order. Mary Forlenza took roll call. Minutes from the November 7, 2001 meeting were accepted as written. New DOT employee Brian Zirbes was welcomed. Mary

presented Mayor Verjinsky and the City of Wisconsin Rapids with a plaque in appreciation for hosting the LRSC Meetings.

LRSC in 2002 (Mary, Rick, Council)

Mary addressed the retirement of DOT Secretary Terry Mulcahy and his replacement Gene Kussart. Mary indicated the new secretary was interested in continuing the successes of the Council. A meeting with secretary Kussart and LRSC leadership will be scheduled as soon as possible – probably March. Discussion regarding WisDOT leadership changes also included the move of WisDOT Executive Assistant Bob Cook to the Transportation Development Association (TDA). Phil Scherer stated that he felt Bob’s “straight forward” leadership style would be a real asset to TDA and the entire transportation community.

2002 dates for the meetings with DOT Management were also tentatively set for April 23 or 24, September 9 or 16, and December 9 or 10. Mary will inform the council when the dates have been finalized.

Rick led a discussion on priorities for the LRSC in 2002. Topics he suggested the council address in 2002 included: pavement rating submittals – addressing enforcement of non-compliers; environmental streamlining; the council’s relationship with the new secretary; the State budget crisis and potential impacts to local aids; and LRSC newsletter and website.

Walt Raith and Emmer Shields brought up the issue of state maintenance contracts and whether counties should continue to enter into them. Emmer expressed concerns over budget shortfalls for maintenance and the liability of counties when doing the work. Rick asked if the issue stemmed from DOT budgeting problems or from Legislative actions? Emmer replied that both needed to be addressed to solve the problem.

Phil Scherer brought up the issue of Federal funds for transportation and their potential to decline because of the current economic situation. He also added the TDA fly-in to the list of priorities and stated that a follow up should be provided to the Secretary. David Waffle requested that the past issues of SCOP and transportation funding be carried over into 2002. Emmer Shields requested that best management practices, the next steps for WISLR, and the rural road safety program be added to the priorities for 2002.

Phil Scherer added the update of TransLinks 21 to list of priorities for 2002. Mary indicated that the plan update would be appropriate for Ken Leonard to address at perhaps the March council meeting. Dick Leffler brought up the issue of conflicts of use on ROWs. His main concerns were with utilities and recreational uses in ROWs. Dennis Melvin indicated that a model ordinance exists regarding this issue and that he would look into it further. Both Rick Jones and Bill Handlos discussed the issue of education. Their suggestions included targeting the council brochure to a broader audience and having stakeholders speak directly with the LRSC. The final priorities for 2002 will be determined at the executive committee, and shared at the March meeting.

Secretary's Committee on Program Streamlining (SCOP) (Mary, SCOP Members)

Mary provided a quick status of the group's efforts. Private sector stakeholders and local representatives to the group continue to support the direction these efforts are moving, but express frustration at how slowly progress is being made. She shared specific progress of the Pre-PS&E group, and the challenges this and all teams face in coming up with recommendations without knowing WisDOT's level of commitment to local programs. External SCOP members have specifically asked WisDOT for more guidance in this area – knowing that the department is committed to streamlining and improvements, but has no ability to allocate additional WisDOT staff resources to local projects. A group led by the Division of Transportation Districts (DTD) is working on this issue, with support from Rod and Mary from the Division of Transportation Investment Management (DTIM). The various SCOP groups are being asked to coordinate their efforts in this area. Rod completed the conversation by sharing that looking at this issue has been a trying process, but one that is moving forward. The department will report back to SCOP later this spring.

FHWA Regional Meeting, Columbus, OH

Mary provided the council with a brief update on the meeting, where she and Dan Fedderly gave the state and local perspectives, respectively, on the agenda topic of streamlining and improving project delivery. Both presentations were very well received, and several attendees requested information about the council and its efforts in this area, as well as other topics in which the LRSC is involved.

WISLR Update (Brian)

Brian Zirbes presented initial results of the statutory pavement rating submittals, due 12/15/01. The council received details on the percentage of municipalities that have submitted ratings. A copy of Brian's presentation is attached. He further informed the council that letters would be sent out to non-complying municipalities reminding them of the requirement to submit pavement ratings, and shared a copy with the council.

Several members inquired as to when the list of non-complying municipalities would be available. Mary indicated that the list would have been available at this meeting but that it needed to be further reviewed to insure accuracy. She stated that the list would be sent out shortly. Bill Handlos cautioned the group about the data being online with analysis tools. He had concerns with the types of reports that could be generated with the information. A discussion took place regarding what the data will be able to tell and the related impacts. It was decided that this was a topic for future meetings. Dennis Melvin asked when the data would be available. Mary indicated that August was the target date for the data to be available online. Phil Scherer praised the letter to non-complying munis – stating it was courteous, yet to the point.

WisDOT Update

Federal Reauthorization Stakeholders Meeting

Mary indicated and locals concurred that the event was a success, and that a second stakeholders meeting will be held in June. Council members who were not in attendance got a copy of the draft

papers, which provided the basis for conversation at the meeting. These drafts will evolve considerably in coming months, and the LRSC will be kept involved and informed on developments. Phil Scherer stressed that reauthorization is an issue the council should focus continue to focus on. Additionally, the summary of the “Taking Stock Conference” is now available, and will be shared electronically.

TRB Presentation

Mary informed the council that she and Scott would be attending the Transportation Research Board (TRB) in Washington D.C. in mid January. Mary is presenting a panel paper Strategic Management entitled *Wisconsin’s Local Roads and Streets Council: A Prototype of Intergovernmental Cooperation and Decision-making*. A summary will be provided at March’s meeting.

Intergovernmental Conference on the Environment (ICE) (John Novick)

John Novick from WisDOT’s Bureau of Environment provided a handout detailing conversation the steering committee had regarding the conference. The handout is attached. He discussed the issues listed on the handout with the council. John indicated that the purpose of the conference was to address misunderstandings between the affected parties and to try to understand other points of view.

Rick Jones asked if it was possible to get a representative from SHPO at the conference. John indicated that it was possible but that WisDOT staff could fill in for them if they are not available. Bill Handlos indicated that he would like to see a dispute resolution process as an outcome of the conference. Emmer Shields stated that he felt the conference should focus on improving the process and communication on regulatory and physical issues and to break down barriers. Emmer provided a handout of topics he would like to see covered by the conference. Emmer explained each of the topics on his list to the group, and the list is attached.

Rick asked the council for direction on the conference. The group decided that the location should be in central Wisconsin and should be limited to developing the scope of the topics to be discussed at future conferences. It was decided that the participants be limited to government officials and staff. In order to cover the costs of the conference it was decided that the local associations attempt to obtain funding. The tentative date for the conference was set for late March or early April. If this is not possible then a fall date will be chosen, however a spring date is preferred.

Committee Reports

Executive / Education and Communication

Rick Jones informed the group of the topics the committee has been discussing. These topics include: WISLR; fall newsletter delay; winter newsletter – due out February or March; LRSC website – Scott informed the Council that a link to the WisDOT website may be developed; Federal Reauthorization; and plans and specifications standardization – the committee has decided to not pursue this issue.

Regulatory, Environmental & Legislative

Emmer Shields informed the Council that the REAL committee has been discussing the non-point source pollution rule and the pending storm water regulations.

Local Transportation Funding Study Group

No report.

Closing Business & Adjourn

Draft Agenda for March, 2002 Meeting

Discussion provided the following items for the March agenda: WISLR update – providing the name of non-complying municipalities; TDA fly-in; Federal Reauthorization; meeting with Secretary – committee thoughts; WISLR – next generation; update on budget issues; TransLinks21 Update; local enhancements program cycle kick-off; non-point pollution rules. The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.